

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAJ-01 EB-07 /076 W

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R 151658Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6181

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1640

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC ECIN PORG EI FR

SUBJ: FRENCH PRIME MINISTER BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRELAND

REF: DUBLIN 1613

1. FRENCH PRIME MINISTER JACQUES CHIRAC ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER JEAN SAUVAGNARGUES ARRIVED IN DUBLIN EVENING NOVEMBER 14 TO BEGIN TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRELAND.

2. CHIRAC IS TO HOLD FULL SCALE PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 15, BUT HE HAD SHORT MEETING WITH PRESS UPON ARRIVAL EVENING 14. QUESTION OF EC REGIONAL FUND WAS RAISED, AND CHIRAC RESPONDED THAT INTEREST OF FRANCE AND IRELAND WAS FOR THE MOST PART THE SAME AND THAT HE WAS SURE THEY WOULD FIND A "GOOD SOLUTION." HE COMMENTED THAT REGIONAL FUND REPRESENTED A LOT OF MONEY AND IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WITH BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS, IT WAS

NOT A GOOD TIME TO INCUR NEW EXPENSE. HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "WE CANNOT ACCEPT A FUND THAT WILL GIVE HELP EVERYWHERE IN EUROPE. IT WOULD COST A LOT TO THE ECONOMIES WITHOUT ANYTHING IN RETURN." HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT HE FAVORED A FUND THAT WOULD CONCENTRATE ON NEEDY AREAS SUCH AS IRELAND, THE SOUTH OF ITALY AND PARTS OF FRANCE.

3. IN PRESS COMMENTARY, "IRISH INDEPENDENT" REPORTER STATED THAT SOURCE CLOSE TO FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD HAD CONFIDED TO HIM THAT ITALY IS BACKING IRELAND ON THIS QUESTION, AND THEIR POSITION WILL BE MAINTAINED AT LEAST UNTIL 25 NOVEMBER WHEN ANOTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING TAKES PLACE.

4. PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE HELD DINNER IN CHIRAC'S HONOR EVENING NOVEMBER 14. SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 15 INCLUDES TALKS WITH COSGRAVE, VISIT TO ECOLE FRANCAISE AND OPENING OF NEW BUILDING FOR FRENCH EMBASSY'S CULTURAL SERVICE AND ALLIANCE FRANCAISE.

5. WE EXPECT A FULLER READOUT ON THE VISIT NEXT WEEK. MEANWHILE, FONOFF SOURCES TELL US THAT THEY DO NOT EXPECT ANYTHING SPECTACULAR FROM THE VISIT. THE VISIT HAS BEEN IN THE OFFING FOR SOME TIME ("CHIRAC IS A FRIEND OF GOI AGMIN CLINTON").
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